

**Opposes Amendment that Would Force Closure of Chicago Locks:**

**"This amendment would have a devastating effect on Hoosier jobs and the ports of Indiana."**

WASHINGTON, DC - U.S. Congressman Mike Pence delivered the following speech on the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives today in opposition to an amendment that would have a "devastating effect" on Hoosier jobs by prohibiting the Army Corps of Engineers from operating the navigation locks located in the City of Chicago in order to control the Asian Carp population:

"I rise today in opposition to the amendment offered by my friend and colleague, Mr. Camp of Michigan. And let me say I think I take a second chair to no one in my respect for the gentleman from Michigan.

"I respect his passion, his leadership of the Ways and Means Committee and his passion for the ecosystem known as the Great Lakes, I know, is sincere and it's real. And this problem is real. Anyone who has taken more than a passing glance at the issue of Asian carp recognizes that this is a serious but manageable threat to the Great Lakes region.

"It is one that deserves the continued attention of this Congress and this administration and the states within the Great Lakes region. But that being said, I rise in opposition to the Camp Amendment for the following reasons. Principally because I believe that this amendment would have a devastating effect on Hoosier jobs and the ports of Indiana.

"The Camp Amendment would prohibit the Army Corps of Engineers from operating the navigation locks located in the City of Chicago. It's the only waterway in the Great Lakes system

with access to the Mississippi River Basin. The separation of the Great Lakes from the Mississippi River will cost thousands of jobs and will cause great harm to many Hoosiers who manufacture and grow our products. According to a study by the Ports of Indiana, commerce through the Chicago locks is responsible for \$1.9 billion in economic activity and nearly 18,000 jobs in my home state.

"In addition to the economic damage this action will inflict, I would submit respectfully that there is no evidence that actually closing the locks will definitely keep the Asian Carp out of the Great Lakes. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service found in a study just a year ago that there is no 'combination of lock operation scenarios that experts believe will lower risk of Asian carps establishing self-sustaining populations in Lake Michigan.'

"In fact, according to the Asian Carp Working Group, there are dozens of alternative methods yet to be fully explored. Indiana is fully participating in a federal government-led effort to stop the Asian Carp's migration. Electronic barriers have shown promise. We need to continue energetically to work in that area. The gentlelady from Illinois also outlined different areas.

"Let me say while I urge my colleagues to oppose the Camp Amendment, allow me to use this moment to say we will continue to lock arms with the gentleman from Michigan, with our neighbors in Michigan, our neighbors in Illinois, to deal with what is a very, very real threat to the ecosystem, to commerce in the area, and to the enjoyment of the waterways in the area."